

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01122 231703Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07
OES-07 ERDA-05 DHA-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W
-----232340Z 008347 /70

R 231302Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4678
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1122

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BA, US
SUBJECT: US ARMS SALES POLICY

REF: STATE 115244 AND 115406

1. DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE FROM TALKING POINTS CONTAINED
REFTELS, ON MAY 23 I PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER WITH COPY OF
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND DISCUSSED IT WITH HIM. HE TOOK
SOME NOTES AND REMARKED, FIRST, THAT IT IS ADMIRABLE US
INITIATIVE WHICH HE DOUBTS CAN SUCCEED. HE SAID BRITISH,
FRENCH AND OTHER ARMS SUPPLIERS SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD NOT
TO MAKE MONEY SELLING ARMS. HE NOTED OPEN-ARMS WELCOME
WHICH UAE'S SHEIKH ZAYYID HAD RECEIVED IN FRANCE AND SAID
THIS WAS BECAUSE "THOUSANDS OF FRENCH JOBS" DEPEND ON ARMS
PURCHASES WHICH FRENCH HOPED ZAYYID WOULD MAKE. I REPLIED
THAT USG OF COURSE AWARE OF THIS ASPECT BUT THAT PRESIDENT
FELT THAT A BEGINNING MUST BE MADE AND THAT, AS LARGEST ARMS
SUPPLIER, IT WAS UP TO US TO TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARD
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RESTRAINT. WE KNOW THAT WE WILL NEED COOPERATION OF OTHER
SUPPLIERS, AS WELL AS THAT OF CONSUMERS, AND OUR EFFORTS
WILL BE DIRECTED TO THIS END.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CURIOUS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN STATEMENT AND RECENT
FUROR IN CONGRESS OVER ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL.

I SAID IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAD WANTED NEW ARMS SALES POLICY TO GIVE ISRAEL LEGAL STATUS EQUAL TO, OR VERY CLOSE TO, THAT OF OUR TREATY ALLIES IN THIS RESPECT. RESULT OF ADMINISTRATION'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE MEMBERS WAS, INSTEAD, SEPARATE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR LONG-STANDING RESPONSIBILITIES RE ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN "NO FIRST INTRODUCTION" POLICY. HE SAID THIS MUST HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIND WHEN HE REFUSED TO HONOR FORD ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT OF CBW BOMBS TO ISRAEL; HE ADDED THAT HE WISHED THIS POLICY HAD BEEN IN EFFECT WHEN US FIRST SOLD PHANTOM AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE FELT " NO FIRST INTRODUCTION" ASPECT OF NEW POLICY MIGHT BE AREA IN WHICH OTHER SUPPLIERS WILL AGREE MOST EASILY, THOUGH HE SAID HE FELT FRENCH MIGHT BE DIFFICULT EVEN HERE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS NEVER BEEN IN FAVOR OF BAHRAIN ACQUIRING MORE THAN MOST BASIC ARMAMENTS AND HE DID NOT ASK WHAT NEW POLICY MIGHT MEAN FOR BAHRAIN.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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